

Crafting a Festive Tale: A Storytelling Scaffold

Learning objective: To write a cohesive, atmospheric Christmas narrative using descriptive language, varied sentence structures, and effective paragraphing.

Follow this scaffold to build your Christmas story. Focus on using 'show, don't tell' techniques to describe the setting and the emotions of your characters. Ensure your vocabulary is ambitious and your punctuation is precise.

The snow fell in silent, rhythmic patterns, dusting the cobblestones of the village in a thick, crystalline blanket of white.

Word bank: shimmering · anticipation · cacophony · ethereal · huddled · nevertheless · consequently · amidst · a hushed silence · twinkling · frost-bitten · beneath the surface

1. The Opening: Describe the setting through the eyes of your character. What is the atmosphere? Start your paragraph with: 'The air was crisp and carried the faint scent of...' (2 marks)

2. Character Introduction: Introduce your protagonist. What is their motivation during this festive season? Consider: 'Despite the biting cold, [Character Name] felt a flicker of hope because...' (2 marks)

3. The Dilemma: Explain the challenge your character must face. Why is this specific event significant? Write: 'The challenge presented itself when...' (3 marks)

4. The Climax: Describe the turning point of the story. How does the tension build? Start with: 'As the clock struck midnight, the atmosphere shifted instantly into...' (3 marks)

5. Resolution: Justify how the character overcomes their obstacle. Write: 'Ultimately, the outcome was achieved by...' (3 marks)

6. Reflection: Conclude with a thought on the meaning of the season. Use: 'Reflecting on the night's events, [Character Name] realised that...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Compare and contrast your story's setting with a traditional winter landscape. Explain why you chose the specific sensory details included in your opening paragraph. What might happen if your main character had failed to overcome their challenge? Justify your choice of ending.